Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of improving security processing in a computing network, comprising [[steps of]]:

providing security processing in an operating system kernel;

providing an application program which makes use of the operating system kernel during execution;

providing security policy information;

executing the application program; and

selectably [[securing]] encrypting at least one communication of the executing application program using the provided security processing in the operating system kernel, under conditions specified by the security policy information.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the security policy information is stored in a security repository.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein the security policy information is usable for more than one executing application program.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the conditions [[include]] comprise network addresses.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the network addresses specify one or more of server addresses and destination addresses.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 4, wherein the network addresses [[include]] comprise ranges of source addresses and/or ranges of destination addresses.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the conditions [[include]] comprise one or more port numbers and/or one or more port number ranges.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the conditions [[include]] comprise one or more job names.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the conditions [[include]] comprise one or more client identifiers.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising [[the step of]] checking the security policy information when the executing application program establishes a connection, and wherein the [[selectably securing step communicates]] communications on that connection are encrypted according to a result of the checking step.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, whereby communications from the executing application program may be [[secured]] encrypted even though the provided application program has no code for security processing.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the provided application program [[includes invocation of]] invokes one or more security directives, and further comprising [[the step of]] executing, during execution of the provided application program, one or more of the invoked security directives.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein, when a result of evaluating the security policy information so indicates, [[the selectably securing step thereby secures]] communications on only some sockets of a port are encrypted.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the provided security processing operates in a Transmission Control Protocol layer of the operating system kernel.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the provided security processing implements Secure Sockets Layer.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the provided security processing implements [[Transaction]] Transport Layer Security.

17. (Currently Amended) A system for improving security processing in a computing network, comprising:

means for performing security processing in an operating system kernel;

security policy information specifying one or more conditions under which the means for performing security processing is to be activated;

means for executing an application program which makes use of the operating system kernel during execution; and

means for selectably [[securing]] encrypting, according to the conditions specified by the security policy information, at least one communication of the executing application program using the means for performing security processing.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for improving security processing in a computing network, the computer program product [[embodied on one or more computer-readable media and]] comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied thereintherewith, the computer usable medium comprising:

computer-readable program code [[means for performing]] configured to perform security processing in an operating system kernel;

computer-readable program code [[means for accessing]] configured to access security policy information, the security policy information specifying one or more conditions under which the computer-readable program code [[means for performing]] configured to perform security processing is to be activated;

computer-readable program code [[means for executing]] configured to execute an application program which makes use of the operating system kernel during execution; and

computer-readable program code [[means for selectably securing]] configured to selectably encrypt, according to the conditions specified by the security policy information, at least one communication of the executing application program using the computer-readable program code [[means for performing]] configured to perform security processing.